

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

35 years of working the world

It may seem hard to believe, but CDXA will be 35 years old this July. The first CDXA meeting was held in July 1981 at the home of Roger Burt, N4ZC. Stay tuned for more details of that meeting. ...Of course, some of you were there.

As we get closer to July, we'll be adding details and planning ways to celebrate the anniversary. For now, we'll be celebrating with the 35th Anniversary logo featured on the left.

We have Sally Crawford and Susan Uilton to thank for the logo. Sally is the sister of Chris Price, WW4CP's, wife, Ellen, and Susan is a friend of Sally's who is also good with graphics. Our thanks to them, and to Chris, who contacted them with a description of what we had in mind.

K4MD	Joe Simpkins	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
AD4IE	Paul Ponak	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	W4 QSL Bureau Manager
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
NV4A	John Forbus	Editor

CDXA Elects a New President

Due to the untimely passing of our friend and CDXA President Hal Bouton, N4QT/sk, the Club held a special election at our yearly Hamfest Banquet (...more on the Banquet in the following pages.) For the first time in quite awhile we had two excellent candidates step up, John Scott, K8YC, and Joe Simpkins, K4MD. When the votes were counted, Joe was declared our new President. Here, as only Joe could tell it, is a short bio.

Born on a mountain top in Tennessee
Killed him a bar when he was only 3,
He said yes when he was asked to be
candidate for the Presidency
C D ... C D X A Home of the DXers!
(Ed. Note: I suspect you all know the tune....)

Joe, waving his
new "Presidential"
gavel presented by
Bill, W4GRW,
CDXA VP



(Continued on page 2)

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

(Continued from page 1)

Well, it doesn't say much for my poetic license, but I sure am fond of my license from the FCC! Who is this guy named Joe? It is true I was born on a hilltop in Tennessee, specifically Nashville, in the year of our Lord 1947AD. Local public schools for elementary and high school in a little town called Franklin were my choice and a community church called Bethlehem, where my forefathers built and worshipped in for a hundred years prior to me. Georgia Tech and the University of Tennessee rounded out my earning a Bachelor of Science in Corporate Finance.

Vietnam happened, and I got close, but in the air mostly resupplying American troops in a USAF C-130 aircraft. I left the Air Force as a Major, and then flew with the Tennessee Air National Guard. Real estate and finance activities funded my appetite and my love for the Ham Radio hobby I would enjoy starting with my high school days. WN4OXD, WA4OXD, WD4R, and K4MD were my calls as I worked my way up the license chain.

I joined the CDXA in 1990 when I moved here from Tennessee to fly with Piedmont. 22 years later, I retired from commercial aviation, and have been active in the Real Estate industry, and became a Federal Firearms Licensee about 6 years ago. I was honored to serve the CDXA as President during the 1993-95 and 1998 time periods.

To date I have earned the #1 Award from the ARRL, and served as the System Operator for the CDXA Packet Cluster following N4ZC. When I'm not otherwise

detained, I serve on the Board of Directors of CDXA and the Charlotte Rifle and Pistol Club, and volunteer for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department in the Homicide Cold Case Unit. When not busy, I love to improve "stuff" and refurbish old John Deere Farm tractors. Oh yeah, better not forget to recognize my boss at home, Gina, who is adept at adding things to do.

I am honored to accept the CDXA vote of confidence to serve out the rest of N4QT/sk, Hal Bouton's term, and hope we can do some fun things together for the common good of our hobby and our Club!

73

Joe, K4MD

A Great Hamfest Banquet

We had a great time at Pike's Old Fashioned Soda Shop in Charlotte on Friday night the 11th of March, with



over 60 people in attendance, including several of our local ARRL reps (all of whom who are also CDXA members.) Pike's is a great venue, and I'm sure we'll be back. The food was good (see

the samples to the right), as was the company. The delicious desserts—everything you could think of with ice cream in it—made everyone who got dessert happy. Pike's also proved to be a good place to mingle, with room between tables to get around easily.



Paul Ponak, AD4IE, our new Contest Manager, passed out prizes and Certificates for the ARRL DX Contest, and for last year's DX King competition. Dick, W3OA, somehow managed to walk away with the lottery prize for 2015 DX King, an MFJ-



891Power/SWR meter. Maybe that was luck's way of saying "thank you" to Dick for all those years as Contest Manager! Be sure to enter the 2016 DX King Contest,

and maybe next year this could be you!

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
Copyright 2016

Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check or through [the CDXA website](http://www.cdxa.org), to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

(Continued from page 2)

Speaking of prizes, the grand prize of the night, the certificate for a Yaesu FT DX 1200 went (again!) to Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ. Thanks very much to Yaesu for once again generously supplying us a great radio! Our youngest member, Nathan Sos-saman, N4CEB, drew Paul's name from the hat.



Here's Lou, N2TU, presenting the prize to Paul, and Nathan preparing for the big moment of drawing the magic number.



One last picture: Before every event, Paul, W3GQ; and Dick, W3OA, get there early to set up our A/V system. Here's Paul testing the sound. (Dick had left to go pick up their XYLs) Thanks Guys.



There are plenty more pictures taken at the Banquet on the [CDXA web site](#). They were taken by Ed Kubert, K5EK, who happens to be much better with a camera than I am.



At the Hamfest

The Charlotte Hamfest, held Friday the 11th and Saturday the 12th was also, as usual, a lot of fun. As you can see in the pictures on the right, attendance was good. Also, our booth (above, right), which was right next to the ARRL booth, drew a good crowd, and we raffled off a very nice prize this year, an MFJ-259C HF/VHF SWR Analyzer. The winner of the raffle was Bill Parris, AA4R. Congratulations, Bill!

Lou, N2TU, and Dick, W3OA, gave a presentation on their DXpedition to Palmyra.

Here are a few Hamfest pictures, taken by Ed K. There are also more pictures of the Hamfest by Ed on the web-site in the same folder as the Banquet pictures.



The Wayback Machine

Last month (see Page 3 of the [February Pileup](#)) we showed an aerial picture of a phenomenal antenna farm, and asked if anyone recognized it. Scott Douglass, K2SD, was the first to recognize it as the QTH of Roger Burt, N4ZC. Joe Hardy, KC4G, was next. Don Daso, K4ZA, who was instrumental in getting all those antennas up, and in helping deliver Top Ten multi/multi scores in contests, also provided some fascinating recollections of operating from Roger's QTH. ...more from Don in a moment. First, here's what Roger has to say about the picture and the antennas:

"The picture was taken from about 350'.....not legal that low...flaps down, as slow as she'd go. I could take 2 pictures each pass...18 passes for two full rolls of 35mm. We'd have been in the trees if the engine cut out. Two 75' towers are unseen under the plane.

There is a tower behind the house that seems to come out of the wing strut. I'll give that info last.

Left to right, near the barn 130' tower 4 el 7 MHz with 4 el 28 MHz above...3 el 14 MHz @ 70' fixed SSE....4 el 21 MHz @ 45' fixed SSE.

110' tower 4 el 14 MHz at top with another at 47'...(40' booms) Nothing magic about 47'...that's as high as I could get it and still rotate, without hitting guys. 3 el 28 MHz fixed NE.

100' tower 6 el 21 MHz with another at 40' (36' booms) 40' cuz that's as high as I could go and rotate the tower3 el 21 MHz @ 70' fixed SSE.

120' tower 6 el 28 MHz (36' boom) later added another 6 el at 80' and 40'...it was a real death ray on 10m. We could select top, mid, lower, top 2, lower 2 or all 3.

Between the towers (3) 4 el wire beams for 80 NE S and W.

In the contests we'd put up a full size balloon 160 v in the field, the other side of the barn.

Ahhhhh, those were the days.... We'd operate a complete KW station on each band. The power company loved me.

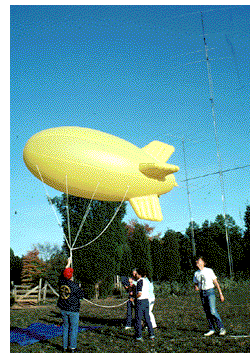
Roger

Don sort of starts where Roger leaves off: "Ahhhhh, the good old days at N4ZC's, where we had built a fairly competitive station on a budget. Rog was (still is) living on his USCG retirement, & I was living on freelance work. But we somehow managed to erect seven towers, with stacks on 20 -10M, and two separate 40M beams (a 4L KLM & a Cushcraft 2L), along with SA/CA multiplier antennas. My Skyhook for a fullsize 160M vertical, & some Beverages. Mostly all TS-830s or radios some ops would bring. Mostly all SB-220 amplifiers, never anything running legal limit. We made "the box" of Top Ten USA M-M several times, which was always our goal. I won the 10M Test twice, & did well in SS, too, as a single op. The hardest part was getting operators. Somehow, people said they were intimidated....

Well, a few towers are missing. We once had seven up out there, w/stacks on 20 - 10M, two separate 40M beams, dedicated SA/CA antennas, & some Beverages. For CQ WW, we'd fly my Skyhook (*...more on the Skyhook below*) for a full size 160M vertical out in the horse pasture.

Only trouble was getting operators. Turned out, guys were somehow "intimidated," which Rog 'n I never really understood..."

Don's Skyhook, shown here being readied for take-off, (that's Don in the red hat) in a photo by Scott, K2SD, was a full size 160m vertical taken aloft by a mini-blimp. There were about 60 radials run along the ground, as shown in another photo by Scott, showing Don and then-KF4HK, now K4SQR, Jim Miller, attaching the radials to a "base" of copper tubing. For more information on the Skyhook, you can read the article in the May 1997 QST (page 31) by Don, titled *A Skyhook for the 90's* which gives lots of details, in case you have a big empty field and a desire to be a Big Gun on 160. (To read the article, just log on to the [ARRL website](#), and search for "Skyhook.")



Thanks very much to Roger and Don for this look at one great contest station ...built on a budget!



2015 ARRL DX Contest Wrap Up

By Paul Ponak, AD4IE

Another year, and another ARRL DX contest is in the books. We awarded some of the prizes at our DX dinner at Pike's Soda Shop in South End on Friday night, March 11th. Others who couldn't attend will receive theirs in the mail. Full results will be available later in the year on the ARRL website.

Our score was a bit off from last year although the conditions seemed pretty good for this part of the solar cycle. Sunday proved to be a good day for 10 meters on phone. This year we reported a total score of 28.1 million points as opposed to last year's 31.1 million points.

Please make sure to report your log to the ARRL using Carolina DX Association (exactly this way) in your summary sheet under the Club section in order for us to get your points added to our club score. If you aren't sure if you did it correctly, then submit your Cabrillo file again as the robot will pick up the last correct file that you submitted. Logs may be [uploaded](#) online or emailed to DXCW@arrl.org or DXPhone@arrl.org. You must have your CW logs uploaded or postmarked by March 22 and your Phone logs uploaded or postmarked by April 5. You can also make sure your logs were received. Just [Click here](#).

Our winners were:

Top combined score: K7BV, Dennis, 4,648,824 points

Top CW score: K5EK, Ed, 2,107,560 points

Top Phone score: W3GQ, Paul, 1,580,706 points

Top CW Low Power: AA4R, Bill, 755,604 points

Top Phone Low Power: KU4V, Wayne, 654,300 points.

In other results, members who won prizes for completing 1000 or more contacts combined CW and Phone were: K2SX, Dennis. KZ2I, Steve. K4FS, Gary. N4ZC, Roger. W3OA, Dick. W7DO, Gary.

Members who completed 500 or more contacts combined CW and Phone were:

AD4IE, Paul. K4FAN, Eric. K4KAY, Earl. W3SA, John. W4LVH, Loyd. NV4A, John.

Members who completed 250 or more contacts were:

K2SD, Scott. K4CEB, Eric. W3ZL, Cliff

The raffle held for the 500+ and 250+ categories was won by W3SA, John.

Here are some soapbox comments (edited) from the CW contest:

AA4R- Had a good contest, although 10 m was in bad shape, 222 contacts on 10 m in 2015 vs. 92 today. So had to make up for it on the other bands. Fortunately 15 turned out OK. Conditions seemed to be better on Sat vs. Sun for some reason. Running with dipoles on all bands Sure miss a beam!!

K2SD- Was limited to my R8 Vertical since beam is awaiting repair. Regardless had a good time.

K2SX- Condx were not good for low wire antennas abt 800 watts. 10M was really interesting with spotlight openings to much of EU. 160 was disappointing with nothing heard from EU. 15M proved to be the money band here even with a low delta loop. Lots of noise on 20M, apparently local.

K5EK- Skimmers need to be vastly improved. I finally turned them off in my spotter as they were very inaccurate (tiny understatement).

W4LM- Beaming from High atop the Blue Ridge Mountains, at least from the side of one!

And from the SSB contest:

AA4R- Didn't put in as many hours this year. Getting old!!

K2SX- A little surprise, but a pleasant one, to hear 10m open late on Sunday, just like on the CW Contest. Maybe there is hope yet.

KZ2I- Big mistake was wearing myself out working on putting dipoles back up Friday right before contest. Paid back in 89 qsos and 58 mults on 80 and 160. However, Ye Olde Muscles were talking to me all weekend. This year's conditions were good, but definitely not as hot as last year. 10m was surprisingly good Sunday with 81 countries worked.

N4ZC- I'm really getting too old for this stuff. I no longer try to win... just reach my own goals... DXCC, 1000Q, and a million points. I had 105 on 20, 109 on 15, and 88 on 10. I don't have an antenna for 160 or 40.

NV4A- Had a lot of fun both weekends... just didn't have enough operating time. Was surprised both weekends to get openings to the far east even on 10 on both Sunday afternoons.

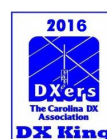
W4PNY- This is the first time I've worked a contest for a score.

W4WNT- I didn't spend as much time on this one.



DX King News

Paul Ponak, AD4IE



We held the drawing for the 2015 DX King prize at our Hamfest Dinner and the prize, an MFJ-891 Cross Needle Watt Meter, was won by Dick, W3OA. Anyone in the competition who scored over 150 points for the year was eligible for the prize. The same rule applies this year. Full details for this year's contest and prize are in the [January 2016 Pileup](#)

So far K7BV and K5EK are neck and neck in the Unlimited Category while W4HG seems to be having an easy time of it in the Limited. There's still plenty of year left; however, so let's wish good DX'ing to all competitors. Here are the first reports for this year's competition as of March 17:

Callsign	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K7BV	Unlimited	221	40	261
K5EK	Unlimited	218	40	258
W4HG	Limited	184	38	222
W3GQ	Unlimited	172	37	209
W7DO	Unlimited	149	34	183
K2SX	Unlimited	140	34	174
W3OA	Unlimited	134	32	166
NV4A	Unlimited	129	30	159
K4FS	Unlimited	120	29	149
KZ2I	Unlimited	115	30	145
W3ZL	Formula	103	23	126
K3IRV	Formula	99	26	125
N4GBK	Limited	92	26	118
K1MIJ	Unlimited	91	23	114
N4GBK	Limited	81	23	104
K8YC	Unlimited	62	23	85
K4HC	Limited	49	21	70
K4MLD	Formula	35	14	49
N2TU	Unlimited	14	12	26

Now that the ARRL DX contest is over, I would like to get back to reporting scores as of the last day of each month by the 5th of the next month. You can continue to use the link shown on the first page of the CDXA.ORG website to input your data.

DXpedition News

Just as the fun of having three of the top “Most Wanted” list on the air, and hopefully in everyone’s logs, is over, it’s time to get ready for the next round. The *Braveheart* is on its way to Heard Island (#7 from the US East Coast) with the VK0EK team on board. They’ll be firing up in the next few days, and are operating /MM from the ship. Their web site is vk0ek.org. FT4JA, Juan de Nova, which is #8 from the East Coast, will be on soon after, beginning the end of March. Their website is <http://www.juandenovadx.com/>. Two of the FT4JA team members will be on Mayotte for several days, starting about the time this is being written. They’ll be operating as FH/Home Call. Timor Leste, 4W, is ranked at #50 for those of us on the East Coast, so it may not be as big a deal as Heard and Juan de Nova, but a lot of us still need it. A team of JA operators plans to be operating from East Timor from April 5-11.

Since we’ll once again have multiple major DXpeditions on at once, be sure to keep up with the information on their websites, and make sure you’re working the right DX. Here’s wishing us all good hunting.

Last month’s *Pileup* had lots of pictures from Palmyra, compliments of Dick, W3OA. Your editor managed to accidentally and inexplicably leave out the best two pictures from the whole bunch, so here they are:



Dick says: Here's the whole team showing our appreciation for CDXA's support. Left to right are W8HC, WB9Z, W0GJ, K9CT, N2TU, W3OA, K9NW, ND2T, and K6MM. THANK YOU CDXA!

As for this sort of scary picture, Dick says: Near the end of our visit Lou tried to escape the island on this piece of equipment. His attempt failed. This is used as a trash compactor and runway maintenance tool. (Ed. Note: Lou says it was a blast to drive.)



The Back Page

- CDXA has a new President. Joe Simpkins, K4MD, was elected to serve the rest of the term of Hal Bouton, N4QT/sk. Joe has shared his bio with us on the first two pages.
- As mentioned last month, this is CDXA's 35th anniversary year. You've probably noticed that the CDXA logo has been modified to reflect the achievement.
- The Hamfest Banquet, see Page 2, was a lot of fun. The food was good and the companionship even better. Thanks to Bill, W4GRW, for taking the lead to put the Banquet together.
- This year's Hamfest was also well-attended. I'm sure most folks showed up to hear Lou, N2TU and Dick, W3OA, talk about their DXpedition to Palmyra.
- Check the Wayback Machine on Page 4 for a very interesting description of the massive antenna farm which not so long ago filled the fields around the QTH and contest station of Roger Burt, N4ZC.
- The wrap-up from the recent ARRL CW and Phone Contests are on Pages 5 and 6. While our score was down from last year, it's a good bet that propagation is mainly to blame, as we had lots of participation.
- The DX King scores through February are also listed on Page 6. As usual, the battle is heating up early.
- A short summary of upcoming major DXpeditions is on Page 7, along with what were supposed to have been the most important pictures among those taken by Dick, W3OA, on Palmyra. I somehow managed to leave them out last month, so they're included this month on Page 7.

73, and see you next month.

John, NV4A